

March 9, 2010

Governor M. Jodi Rell  
State Capitol  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Rell:

We are deeply concerned about the continued delays in the Department of Social Services' (DSS) efforts to secure a waiver that would allow the state to include low income childless adults, now covered by State-Administered General Assistance (SAGA), in the state's Medicaid program. As you know, including SAGA clients in the Medicaid program will improve access to care for this vulnerable population and allow the state to receive federal reimbursement for expenditures in the program.

The General Assembly has repeatedly recognized the importance of seeking an 1115 waiver for the SAGA program. Section 17b-192(g) of the Connecticut General Statutes—passed in 2003 and then reaffirmed in 2007—required that the Commissioner of Social Services submit an application to the federal government for such a waiver by March 1, 2004 and January 1, 2008, respectively. More recently, the biennial budget passed on August 31, 2009 (Public Act 09-3) assumed that a SAGA waiver would be in place before the end of this fiscal year, resulting in a savings of \$6.8 million in FY 10 and \$38.6 million in FY 11. Despite these clear legislative directives and the prospect of substantial savings to the state, DSS continues to delay submission of the 1115 waiver.

Recently, members of your administration have claimed that DSS is not submitting the waiver because the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are not processing Medicaid waivers pending passage of federal health care reform legislation. Representatives at CMS, however, dispute this claim. According to CMS, their staff continues to accept and process all 1115 waivers and at no point slowed down the processing of waivers.

Given the current circumstances, continued delays in the preparation and submission of an 1115 waiver to cover the state's SAGA population are unacceptable. We call on you to instruct DSS to proceed immediately with the waiver application, as required under Connecticut law.

Very truly yours,

Senator Toni Harp  
Co-Chair Appropriation Committee

Senator Paul Doyle  
Co-Chair Human Services Committee